

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being added or canceled.

Claims 1, 17 and 18 are currently being amended.

This amendment and reply amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-4 and 13-19 are now pending in this application for further examination on the merits, in which claims 5-12 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejection – Indefiniteness:

In the Office Action, claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite, for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. By way of this amendment and reply, claims 17 and 18 have been amended to overcome this rejection.

Claim Rejection – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 13-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2002-086854 to Nakamura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,134,105 to Lueker, U.S. Patent No. 6,040,924 to Tamagaki et al., and U.S. Patent No. 5,117,505 to Talwar, JP 2002-373062 to Ueno, and U.S. Patent No. 6,642,892 to Masaki et al.; and claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura, Lueker, Tamagaki, Talwar, Ueno, and Masaki, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,069,587 to Lynch. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

In the present invention as exemplified by presently pending independent claim 1, two antennas are structured such that the two antennas are formed of vertically oriented flat plates

and such that first parts of the two antennas that are disposed above second parts of the two antennas where the two antennas are mounted on the rear surface of the image forming apparatus, are separately formed from the rear surface of the image forming apparatus. By such features, loss of radiation characteristics is reduced (see Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings, and the description of those figures in the specification). The cited references fail to disclose, teach or suggest such antennas having the specific features recited in claim 1. For example, the antennas 2-1, 2-2 disclosed in Masaki are not formed of vertically oriented flat plates, and the antennas 2-2, 2-2 disclosed in Masaki are formed such that portions of those antenna disposed above the mounting portion of those antennas are not separately formed from the rear surface of the PC on which they are mounted (see Figures 2 and 3 of Masaki).

Accordingly, presently pending independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited art of record.

Additionally, dependent claims 17 and 18 now recite that the first parts of the two antennas have a curved lower portion and a non-curved upper portion. See Figure 2 of the drawings, for example, in which such features are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited art of record, when taken as a whole.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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